



November 2001

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## Rome awards \$8.5M contract to Draper Laboratory

by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory's Information Directorate has awarded an \$8.5 million contract to Charles Stark Draper Laboratory of Cambridge, Mass., for research of advanced simulation technologies.

The four-year agreement, "Mixed Initiative Planning and Control Under Uncertainty," is funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) of Arlington, Va., as part of its Mixed Initiative Control of Automa-teams (MICA) program.

"Draper engineers will be looking at the application of control theory to the management of teams of both manned and unmanned vehicles in the battlespace," said Carl A. DeFranco Jr., program manager in the directorate's Information Systems

Division. "They will be looking at all phases of the MICA program, ranging from the composition of teams needed to accomplish tasks down to the cooperative control within a team of vehicles - both manned and unmanned."

"Researchers will initially look at unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and unmanned combat air vehicles (UCAVs)," said DeFranco. "While we are working with DARPA as their agent, we are also working with the AFRL Air Vehicles Directorate at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and the Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR), San Diego, Calif."

Michael R. Ferenti of the directorate's Contracting Division negotiated the Draper Laboratory agreement. @

